

Recovery Plan Action Status**Plan Name: Johnston's Frankenia(Frankenia johnstonii) Recovery Plan****Plan Status: Final****Plan Date: 24-May-88****Lead Agency: USFWS****Lead Office: Corpus Christi Ecological Services Field Office****(361-994-9005)**

Species	Action Priority #	Action #	Action Description	Action Status	Est. Initiation Date	Est. Completion Date	Responsible Parties	Work Type	Labor Type	Action Comments
Johnston's frankenia (Frankenia johnstonii)	2	111	Identify essential habitat	Complete	Prior to FY 1995	FY 1995 - FY 1999	Texas Department of Parks and Wildlife	Research: Habitat Requirements	Contract	Between 1993 and 1999, TDoPW conducted research and surveys to determine the characteristics of habitat occupied by the Johnston's frankenia.

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Johnston's frankenia (Frankenia johnstonii)	1	1121	Make landowners aware of plants and habitat	Ongoing Current	Prior to FY 1995		Texas Department of Parks and Wildlife, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, The Nature Conservancy of Texas, Texas State University, Private Landowners, Janssen Biological	Management: Land Use, Management: Planning, Other: Information and Education	Contract, Internal Field Assistance, Internal Technical Assistance, Species Expert	One of the important initial tasks undertaken by TDoPW was to survey for populations and identify the landowners on whose land the plants occurred. TDoPW spent several years locating landowners and educating them about the plants and their habitat. The TDoPW botanist who worked on this section 6-funded project later formed her own consulting business, Janssen Biological. She has continued to work on the Johnston's frankenia even after leaving TDoPW. Under contract to TNC, she made additional LO contacts between 2003 and 2006 - always educating them regarding the endangered frankenia and its management needs. She frequently works under contract to oil and gas companies or individual LO's doing rare plant surveys throughout the range of Johnston's frankenia, so she continues to educate LO's even into the present. Additionally, TNC's South Texas Project Officer has been working with at least 3 LO's who have frankenia on their ranches. He has also raised

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										awareness of the plant and its habitat needs.
Johnston's frankenia (Frankenia johnstonii)	1	1122	Work with landowners on land management practices	Ongoing Current	Prior to FY 1995		Texas Department of Parks and Wildlife, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, The Nature Conservancy of Texas, Private Landowners, Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, Janssen Biological	Management: Habitat Maintenance and Manipulation, Management: Land Use, Management: Planning, Other: Information and Education	Contract, Internal Technical Assistance, Species Expert	Since 1993, when TPWD began their frankenia project, working with LO's on land management practices has been a primary activity aimed at avoiding impacts to the species and its habitat. Much of the information gained from the TPWD/TSU research on species biology and ecology, was used to determine the best management scenarios for this species. Even after TPWD concluded its project in 1999, the private consultant (Janssen Biological) who previously worked for TPWD, as well as TNC have continued their work with LO's. In FY 2011, TNC worked with the LO's of a ranch on the most northern periphery of the species' known range to relocate 8 plants out of the path of a proposed oil field road.

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Johnston's frankenia (Frankenia johnstonii)	1	1123	Fence private sites	Not Started			Texas Department of Parks and Wildlife, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, The Nature Conservancy of Texas, Private Landowners, Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, Janssen Biological	Management: Habitat Maintenance and Manipulation	Contract	The need to fence Johnston's frankenia to exclude grazing has never been definitively shown as a need on any particular property. Fencing might be beneficial if it kept construction activities (such as oil and gas road or well pad building) out of populations, but to date this hasn't been done.
Johnston's frankenia (Frankenia johnstonii)	2	113	Permanently protect at least one site	Complete	Prior to FY 1995	FY 1995 - FY 1999	U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service	Acquisition: Fee Title	Internal Administrative	The USFWS' Realty Division completed acquisition of the Chapeno Tract in Starr County, adding it to the Lower Rio Grande Valley National Wildlife Refuge in the 1990's. Part of one subpopulation of Johnston's frankenia extends onto this tract.
Johnston's frankenia (Frankenia johnstonii)	2	12	Protect habitat in Mexico	Not Started			U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service	Management: Habitat Maintenance and Manipulation, Management: International Cooperation, Management: Land Use	Internal Technical Assistance	Although at least 4 populations have been reported from Mexico, they are all on privately-owned land and the level of protection for these populations is unknown.

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Johnston's frankenia (Frankenia johnstonii)	2	13	Prevent inherent biological threats	Partially Complete	Prior to FY 1995		Texas Department of Parks and Wildlife, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, The Nature Conservancy of Texas, Texas State University, Private Landowners, Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, Janssen Biological	Research: Climate Change, Research: Competition, Research: Demographic Studies, Research: Ecosystem Studies, Research: Habitat Requirements, Research: Habitat Status, Research: Population Surveys	Contract, Graduate Student, Internal Technical Assistance, Species Expert	Although the listing documents and the recovery plan for the Johnston's frankenia indicated that inherent biological limitations, including such parameters as a small number of populations and few individuals, and a low reproductive potential, posed a threat to the continued existence of frankenia, research that clarified the life history and habitat requirements of the species, along with population surveys that showed greater than 70 populations and multi-million individual plants, showed that this threat was not valid.

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Johnston's frankenia (Frankenia johnstonii)	2	14	Develop a management plan	Partially Complete	FY 1995 - FY 1999		Texas Department of Parks and Wildlife, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, The Nature Conservancy of Texas, Private Landowners, Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, Janssen Biological	Management: Land Use, Management: Planning, Other: Information and Education	Contract, Internal Field Assistance, Species Expert	TDoPW's (TPWD) voluntary conservation agreements for private LO's with Johnston's frankenia contained management recommendations and were a very cursory type of management plan - primarily providing for avoidance of impacts to the species (which was the species' greatest need). TPWD got the first agreements signed in 1996 and they had a 10-year time frame. Some of the same landowners resigned these agreements in 2006, as did some new landowners. The TNC also has a management-type of agreement with at least 3 LO's of frankenia. The LRGVNRW includes management of frankenia in its CCP.

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Johnston's frankenia (Frankenia johnstonii)	2	15	Monitor populations	Ongoing Current	FY 1995 - FY 1999		Texas Department of Parks and Wildlife, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, The Nature Conservancy of Texas, Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, Janssen Biological	Management: Population Monitoring	Contract, Internal Field Assistance, Species Expert	TPWD installed photo monitoring points in some frankenia populations in the mid-1990's and did some follow-up monitoring of these sites. TNC conducts annual monitoring of frankenia on those ranches where the LO's have signed conservation agreements with TNC. All of the monitoring to date has been visual observations of conditions of the plants and the habitat, and inspection to look for any threats such as habitat destruction. A post-delisting monitoring plan has been drafted (2011).

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Johnston's frankenia (Frankenia johnstonii)	3	16	Establish down- and delisting criteria	Complete		FY 2000 - FY 2004	U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service	Other: Regulations	Internal Administrative	The Johnston's frankenia recovery plan did not establish down- or delisting criteria because so much information about the species' distribution, abundance, range, life history, and ecology was lacking. The TDoPW (TPWD), in cooperation with TSU, conducted population surveys and research on the life history and ecological aspects of the species, during the 1990's. This work, along with additional surveys done between 2003-2006, turned up a large number of populations in 3 southern Texas counties, some being as large as a million plants. Biological and ecological research showed the plant to be very competitive within the harsh habitat conditions in which it is found. The species is currently being proposed for delisting based on the results of this work, even though recovery criteria were never determined. We can assume that this action is completed because the species is being proposed for delisting.

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Johnston's frankenia (Frankenia johnstonii)	2	21	Determine precise habitat requirements	Complete	Prior to FY 1995	FY 1995 - FY 1999	Texas Department of Parks and Wildlife, Texas State University, Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, Janssen Biological	Research: Ecosystem Studies, Research: Habitat Requirements	Contract	TDoPW (TPWD) determined habitat requirements for the Johnston's frankenia through research conducted between 1993 and 1999.
Johnston's frankenia (Frankenia johnstonii)	2	221	Study demography	Partially Complete	Prior to FY 1995	FY 1995 - FY 1999	Texas Department of Parks and Wildlife, Texas State University, Texas Parks and Wildlife Department	Research: Demographic Studies	Contract, Species Expert	TDoPW (TPWD) and TSU conducted some demographic analysis between 1993 and 1996.
Johnston's frankenia (Frankenia johnstonii)	2	222	Study phenology	Complete	Prior to FY 1995	FY 1995 - FY 1999	Texas Department of Parks and Wildlife, Texas State University, Texas Parks and Wildlife Department	Research: Other Information	Contract	TDoPW (TPWD) and TSU gathered information on phenology of Johnston's frankenia between 1993 and 1996.
Johnston's frankenia (Frankenia johnstonii)	2	223	Study reproductive biology	Complete	Prior to FY 1995	FY 1995 - FY 1999	Texas Department of Parks and Wildlife, Texas State University, Texas Parks and Wildlife Department	Research: Other Information	Contract	TPWD and TSU conducted reproductive biology studies for Johnston's frankenia including fertilization strategies and pollination.
Johnston's frankenia (Frankenia johnstonii)	2	23	Study population ecology	Complete	Prior to FY 1995	FY 1995 - FY 1999	Texas Department of Parks and Wildlife, Texas State University, Texas Parks and Wildlife Department	Research: Ecosystem Studies, Research: Population Assessment	Contract	TDoPW (TPWD) conducted some basic studies of population ecology for Johnston's frankenia between 1993 and 1999.

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Johnston's frankenia (Frankenia johnstonii)	2	3	Search for additional populations	Ongoing Current	Prior to FY 1995		Texas Department of Parks and Wildlife, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, The Nature Conservancy of Texas, Private Landowners, Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, Janssen Biological	Research: Population Surveys	Contract, Internal Field Assistance, Species Expert	Population surveys for Johnston's frankenia began in earnest in 1993 as part of a section 6-funded project done internally by TPWD. TPWD botanist Gena Janssen did extensive surveys for new populations in Starr, Zapata, and Webb Counties in Texas and even did some road surveys in Mexico. By 1999, she had located 58 populations in Texas (including relocating the 5 populations known at the time of listing) and 4 populations in Mexico. Since 1999, when the TPWD project ended, additional surveys have been done. Some of these surveys have been part of other projects including the TPWD-funded surveys for a rare plant project that took place between 2003-2006. Other populations have been found by botanists conducting surveys for other purposes and discovering frankenia as an incidental find or looking for the species as part of surveys being done prior to oil and gas activities. At least 64 populations had been located in Texas by 2003 when a first proposal to delist the species was published. Additional sites

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										have been located since that time.
Johnston's frankenia (Frankenia johnstonii)	2	4	Establish botanical garden populations	Not Started			U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service	Management: Propagation	Internal Technical Assistance, Species Expert	There are no botanical garden populations of Johnston's frankenia at present. The species is among those on the list for the Center for Plant Conservation's ongoing rare plant seed collection project in south Texas
Johnston's frankenia (Frankenia johnstonii)	2	5	Develop public awareness	Partially Complete	Prior to FY 1995		Texas Department of Parks and Wildlife, The Nature Conservancy of Texas, Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, Janssen Biological	Other: Information and Education	Labor type not yet selected	The TDoPW (TPWD) conducted an extensive education/outreach campaign in the early years of its section 6 project (1993-1995) in order to stimulate interest of LO's in the species and in cooperating with TPWD on species conservation activities. TPWD also worked to educate the Natural Resource Conservation Service's staff in Webb, Zapata, and Starr Counties, as a way to meet LO's and to pass information on conservation and management of frankenia to the people who actually delivered land management and conservation on-the-ground. TPWD also set up booths at County fairs and did presentations in schools in Zapata County to educate the public about conservation of endangered species.